



# Frank Lasee

WISCONSIN STATE SENATOR

FIRST SENATE DISTRICT



Dear Chairman Ott and Committee Members:

Thank you for holding this hearing today.

Back in February, the entire Democratic minority chose to leave our state and go to Illinois. They did this to stop the process on a bill they didn't like. They kept the Senate from acting on any bills for three weeks. The important work of the government was put on hold because the minority chose to be absent without excuse.

The legislature is elected by the people to do the people's work. Leaving the state to thwart bills from moving forward simply cannot be tolerated (by either party, Republican or Democrat).

This bill is necessary because:

- Legislators are elected to represent their constituents, participate in the legislative process and vote on legislation that is before them, whether they like the legislation or not. This bill will help ensure that future legislators will not leave the state to thwart the process.
- This law will apply to legislators of any party.
- The \$500 fine must be paid out of personal funds and will go to the school fund.
- Constituents who feel they have been harmed by their legislator leaving will be able to bring action in a court in their home county.

This bill creates a real financial consequence for legislators who decide to leave rather than be in Madison to represent their constituents. It gives constituents the ability to bring action against their legislator for not showing up. This bill is about our state having a legislature that is held accountable for and by their constituents.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Frank G. Lasee  
State Senator  
First Senate District